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ABSTRACT

Demographic, social, and economic characteristics of persons of Spanish origin in the United States are presented in this advance report. Data were collected in the March 1974 Current Population Survey, indicating that there were about 10.8 million persons of Spanish origin in this country. Subcategories of Spanish origin are: Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, and other Spanish. The statistics are for such characteristics as age, sex, residence, years of school completed, income, employment, occupation, and family. A more detailed report is forthcoming. (NQ)

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CURRENT POPULATION REPORTS

Population Characteristics

U S DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE • Social and Economic Statistics Administration • BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Series P-20, No. 267 Issued July 1974

PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN IN THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

(Advance report)

This report presents data on the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of persons of Spanish origin. The data were collected in the March 1974 Current Population Survey. Besides data for all persons of Spanish origin, all of the tables in this report present data for some or all of the subcategories of Spanish origin, that is, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin. A more detailed report on the characteristics of persons of Spanish origin in 1974 is forthcoming.

In March 1974, there were about 10.8 million persons of Spanish origin in the United States with about 6.5 million of them reporting Mexican origin and 1.5 million reporting Puerto Rican origin. Persons of Cuban origin totaled about 700,000 as did persons of Central or South American origin, and about 1.4 million persons reported themselves as of other Spanish origin.

The estimates presented in this report are based on sample data and hence subject to sampling error. The estimated number of total persons of Spanish origin could range from 10.5 million to 11.1 million persons at the one standard error level (68 chances out of 100); for persons of Mexican origin, the similar range is from 6.2 million to 6.7 million persons; for persons of Puerto Rican origin from 1.4 million to 1.7 million persons; and for persons of Cuban origin from 0.6 million to 0.8 million persons.

In general, the Spanish origin population is a young population. The proportion of persons of Spanish origin under 5 years of age was 13 percent; and about 4 percent were 65 years old and over. The corresponding proportions for the total population of the United States were 8 and 10 percent, respectively.

Most families of Spanish origin resided in metropolitan areas. Of the 2.4 million families of Spanish origin, about 2.0 million of them, or 83 percent, lived in metropolitan areas; the overall U.S. proportions was about 68 percent, and there were differences in metropolitan-nonmetropolitan residence among the Spanish origin groups; about one family in four of Mexican origin lived in nonmetropolitan areas, but only about one family in twenty of Puerto Rican origin lived in nonmetropolitan areas.

An especially large proportion of families with a head of Puerto Rican origin have a woman as head of the family. In March 1974, about one family of every eight in the United States was headed by a woman, but about one-third of all families of Puerto Rican origin had a woman as the head.

Families with a head of Spanish origin were relatively large; about 34 percent contained 5 or more persons in the family. The corresponding United States figure was 22 percent.

The Spanish origin population lags significantly behind the total population in educational attainment. About 19 percent of all persons of Spanish origin 25 years old and over had completed less than 5 years of school; the corresponding proportion for the entire United States population was about 4 percent. Only about 36 percent of Spanish origin persons 25 years old and over had completed 4 years

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of high school or more, compared with about 61 percent of the total population. However, in recent years there have been gains in educational attainment for persons of Spanish origin. Although only about 13 percent of persons of Spanish origin 65 years old and over reported in March 1974 having completed 4 years of high school or more, about 53 percent of these persons 25 to 29 years old had completed 4 years of high school or more.

In March 1974, the proportion of employed men of Spanish origin in professional and technical occupations was half the proportion in these occupations for all employed men 16 years old and over--7 percent versus 14 percent. About 56 percent of employed men of Spanish origin were working in blue-collar jobs. Of all employed men of Spanish origin, those of Mexican origin had the greatest proportion, 11 percent, working as farm laborers.

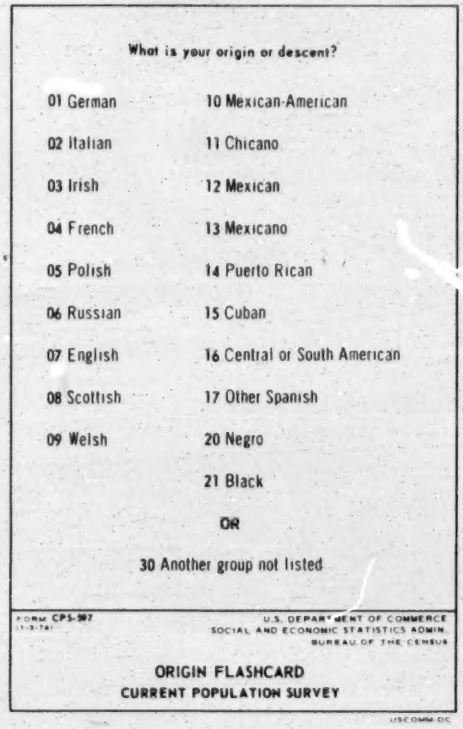
The median income in 1973 of families with a head of Spanish origin was $8,720 as compared with $12,050 for all families. The proportion of all families in the United States with incomes over $15,000, 36 percent, was about twice as large as the proportion of families with head of Spanish origin in this income category, 18 percent.

Individual incomes in 1973 were noticeably different between men and women of Spanish origin. About 23 percent of Spanish origin men who received money income in 1973 had incomes over $10,000, but only about 3 percent of Spanish women with income had incomes over $10,000. At the lower income range, about 22 percent of men of Spanish origin with income had incomes under $3,000, but about 54 percent of Spanish origin women with income made less than $3,000 in 1973.

About 22 percent of persons of Spanish origin had incomes below the low-income level in 1973; the percentage ranged from 34 percent for persons of Puerto Rican origin to 8 percent for those of Cuban origin.

The estimated number of persons of Spanish origin in this report is directly comparable with the estimate of persons of Spanish origin produced by the March 1973 CPS but not directly comparable with estimates for those persons from the CPS of earlier years. In the March 1973 CPS, certain changes and innovations were made in the manner of estimating the number of persons of Spanish origin. (For a detailed description of these changes, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P-20, No. 264, "Persons of Spanish Origin in the United States: March 1973," U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., May 1974.) Detailed definitions will be included in the final 1974 report on persons of Spanish origin.

The information presented in this report on persons of Spanish origin was obtained from the following question:



Persons of Spanish origin were persons who reported themselves as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish origin. However, all persons who reported themselves as Mexican-American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano were combined into the one category: Mexican.

Since the estimates in this report are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling error. The sampling error of an estimate is defined as the difference between the estimate obtained and the results theoretically obtainable from a comparable complete coverage census. All statements of comparison in this report, however, are statistically significant. This means that there are at least 19 chances out of 20 that a difference specified in the text indicates a true difference in the population.

Table 1. TOTAL AND SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

(Number in thousands)

Origin	Total	Percent distribution	
		Total population	Spanish origin population
All persons	207,945	100.0	(X)
Persons of Spanish origin	10,795	5.2	100.0
Mexican	6,455	3.1	59.8
Puerto Rican	1,548	0.7	14.3
Cuban	689	0.3	6.4
Central or South American	705	0.3	6.5
Other Spanish	1,398	0.7	13.0
Persons not of Spanish origin[1]	197,150	94.8	(X)

X Not applicable.
[1]Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.

Table 2. TOTAL AND SPANISH ORIGIN POPULATION BY AGE AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

(Numbers in thousands)

Age	Total	Spanish origin					
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Central or South America	Other Spanish
Total	207,945	10,795	6,455	1,548	689	705	1,398
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under 5 years	7.9	13.3	14.1	14.5	5.1	10.3	13.7
5 to 9 years	8.5	12.5	13.0	13.3	7.8	10.2	12.5
10 to 17 years	15.9	20.0	20.9	18.9	15.2	15.2	21.6
18 to 20 years	5.6	5.7	5.9	5.3	4.4	7.0	5.4
21 to 24 years	6.8	7.0	7.3	7.4	4.3	7.1	6.6
25 to 34 years	13.9	14.3	13.1	17.7	12.2	21.0	13.5
35 to 44 years	10.9	11.1	10.9	10.1	15.1	13.6	9.9
45 to 54 years	11.4	8.1	7.5	7.5	14.5	8.8	7.7
55 to 64 years	9.2	4.7	4.1	3.8	10.9	5.1	4.8
65 years and over	9.9	3.5	3.3	1.6	10.5	1.7	4.2
Median age.....years	28.5	20.1	18.9	19.8	35.7	25.2	19.2

Table 3. RESIDENCE OF ALL FAMILIES AND OF FAMILIES WITH HEAD OF SPANISH ORIGIN BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN OF THE HEAD, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

(Numbers in thousands)

Area	Total	Spanish origin			
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Other Spanish[1]
All families.....	55,053	2,365	1,359	382	625
Metropolitan.....	37,317	1,952	1,021	360	571
Central cities.....	16,019	1,204	569	300	335
Balance.....	21,297	748	452	60	236
Nonmetropolitan.....	17,736	413	337	22	54
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION					
All families.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Metropolitan.....	67.8	82.5	75.1	94.2	91.4
Central cities.....	29.1	50.9	41.9	78.5	53.6
Balance.....	38.7	31.6	33.3	15.7	37.8
Nonmetropolitan.....	32.2	17.5	24.8	5.8	8.6

[1]Comprises families with head of Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin.

Table 4. FAMILIES AND FAMILIES WITH HEAD OF SPANISH ORIGIN, BY TYPE AND SIZE OF FAMILY, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

(Numbers in thousands)

Subject	Total	Spanish origin			
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Other Spanish[1]
TYPE OF FAMILY					
All families.....	55,053	2,365	1,359	382	625
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Husband-wife families.....	85.0	79.3	82.2	64.1	82.4
Other families with male head..	2.6	3.3	3.4	2.6	3.5
Families with female head.....	12.4	17.4	14.4	33.2	14.1
SIZE OF FAMILY					
All families.....	55,053	2,365	1,359	382	625
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2 persons.....	37.4	23.2	18.9	25.1	31.6
3 persons.....	21.2	21.7	20.1	25.3	22.9
4 persons.....	19.6	21.1	20.7	20.9	22.0
5 persons.....	11.6	15.0	15.5	14.6	13.9
6 persons.....	5.5	7.9	9.9	6.5	4.2
7 persons or more.....	4.7	11.2	14.9	7.6	5.4

[1]Comprises families with head of Cuban, Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

Table 5. PERCENT COMPLETED LESS THAN 5 YEARS OF SCHOOL AND PERCENT COMPLETED 4 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL OR MORE, FOR ALL PERSONS AND PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

Years of school completed and age	Total	Spanish origin				
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish[1]
PERCENT COMPLETED LESS THAN 5 YEARS OF SCHOOL						
Total 25 years and over..	4.4	19.4	26.5	17.6	8.9	6.0
25 to 29 years.....	1.2	9.1	12.6	7.5	(B)	2.8
30 to 34 years.....	1.3	9.6	14.6	9.0	(B)	1.6
35 to 44 years.....	2.2	16.3	22.3	18.0	3.8	2.8
45 to 54 years.....	3.4	23.1	32.0	23.0	9.3	6.1
55 to 64 years.....	5.3	29.8	39.9	(B)	16.1	11.0
65 years and over.....	11.9	47.4	63.6	(B)	(B)	(B)
PERCENT COMPLETED 4 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL OR MORE						
Total 25 years and over..	61.2	36.4	29.1	29.6	47.7	55.9
25 to 29 years.....	81.9	52.5	46.7	39.6	(B)	73.7
30 to 34 years.....	77.9	48.2	41.9	40.3	(B)	64.0
35 to 44 years.....	70.4	38.3	31.0	29.5	52.0	60.1
45 to 54 years.....	63.0	30.2	20.6	18.8	49.0	54.0
55 to 64 years.....	50.0	17.4	9.6	(B)	30.2	37.2
65 years and over.....	33.1	13.3	5.2	(B)	(B)	(B)

B Base less than 75,000.
[1]Comprises persons of Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

Table 6. EMPLOYED MEN 16 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

Occupation	Total men 16 years old and over	Spanish origin			
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Other Spanish[1]
Total employed....thousands..	51,678	2,236	1,344	271	621
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-collar workers:					
Professional and technical.....	14.1	6.7	5.2	4.5	11.0
Managers and adminis. exc. farm..	14.1	7.3	5.7	9.7	9.8
Sales workers.....	6.1	3.0	2.7	4.1	3.4
Clerical workers.....	6.6	7.0	5.0	13.8	8.4
Blue-collar workers:					
Craft and kindred workers.....	20.9	17.6	19.2	10.8	17.4
Operatives, including trans.....	17.9	27.0	26.8	31.6	25.3
Laborers, except farm.....	7.3	11.5	14.2	7.8	7.1
Farm workers:					
Farmers and farm managers.....	3.0	0.4	0.4	-	0.3
Farm laborers and supervisors....	1.8	7.4	11.4	1.1	1.5
Service workers	8.2	12.0	9.3	16.7	15.8

- Represents zero.
[1]Comprises men 16 years old and over of Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin.

Table 7. INCOME IN 1973 OF PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN 16 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY SEX AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

Income	Total Spanish origin		Mexican origin		Puerto Rican origin		Other Spanish origin[1]	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total persons, 16 years old and over.....thousands..	3,019	3,325	1,801	1,877	394	483	824	965
Persons with income.....thousands..	2,798	2,108	1,674	1,147	357	293	767	668
Percent.....	100 0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
$1 to $999 or loss.....	7.5	19.4	8.7	23.5	7.0	10.2	5.2	16.3
$1,000 to $1,999.....	7.2	18.2	7.6	19.4	6.7	12.9	6.5	18.6
$2,000 to $2,999.....	7.4	16.2	8.0	18.0	6.1	15.6	6.5	13.3
$3,000 to $3,999.....	6.8	12.3	7.6	11.8	5.6	18.4	5.5	10.5
$4,000 to $4,999.....	8.5	10.6	9.3	9.3	9.5	13.6	6.4	11.4
$5,000 to $6,999.....	19.2	13.2	17.9	11.0	24.0	18.4	19.6	14.8
$7,000 to $7,999.....	8.1	3.4	7.0	2.8	12.0	3.1	8.9	4.5
$8,000 to $9,999.....	12.6	3.9	13.2	2.3	10.3	4.8	12.3	6.3
$10,000 to $14,999.....	17.2	2.2	16.5	1.6	13.6	2.7	20.3	3.0
$15,000 to $24,999.....	4.6	0.5	3.6	0.2	4.5	0.3	6.9	1.0
$25,000 and over.....	0.9	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.8	-	2.0	0.1
Median income of persons with income.....	$6,321	$2,760	$5,978	$2,388	$6,272	$3,614	$7,037	$3,162

- Represents zero.
[1]Comprises persons of Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin.

Table 8. MEDIAN INCOME IN 1973 OF PERSONS 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED AND TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

Years of school completed	Total, 25 years old and over	Spanish origin				
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other Spanish[1]
Total, 25 years old and over..	$6,289	$5,369	$4,982	$5,432	$5,471	$6,204
Elementary school:						
0 to 4 years.....	2,378	3,378	3,388	4,085	(B)	(B)
5 to 7 years.....	3,313	4,440	4,303	4,778	(B)	5,319
8 years.....	3,878	4,916	4,958	4,975	(B)	(B)
High school:						
1 to 3 years.....	5,156	5,789	6,422	5,160	(B)	5,463
4 years.....	7,055	6,611	6,620	7,172	6,306	6,427
College:						
1 year or more.....	9,989	8,636	8,786	(B)	8,267	8,542

B Base less than 75,000.
[1]Comprises persons of Central or South American and other Spanish origin.

Table 9. INCOME IN 1973 OF ALL FAMILIES AND OF FAMILIES WITH HEAD OF SPANISH ORIGIN BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

Income	Total	Families with head of Spanish origin			
		Total	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Other Spanish[1]
All families.....thousands..	55,053	2,365	1,359	382	625
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under $2,000.....	2.9	4.4	5.0	5.5	2.4
$2,000 to $2,999.....	3.2	4.8	5.4	5.0	3.2
$3,000 to $3,999.....	4.1	6.5	5.9	12.9	3.7
$4,000 to $4,999.....	4.5	7.3	6.9	10.2	6.2
$5,000 to $6,999.....	9.4	14.9	15.5	18.6	11.2
$7,000 to $7,999.....	4.9	7.8	8.2	9.2	6.2
$8,000 to $9,999.....	10.0	12.3	13.8	10.0	10.2
$10,000 to $14,999.....	25.5	23.7	23.4	16.0	29.2
$15,000 to $24,999.....	26.2	15.6	13.9	10.8	22.4
$25,000 or more.....	9.3	2.8	1.9	1.8	5.3
Median income.....	$12,051	$8,715	$8,434	$6,779	$11,191

[1]Comprises families with head of Cuban, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin.

Table 10. LOW-INCOME STATUS IN 1973 OF ALL PERSONS AND PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN BY TYPE OF SPANISH ORIGIN, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1974

(Numbers in thousands)

Origin	Total	Below the low-income level	
		Number	Percent
All persons[1].....	207,621	22,973	11.1
Persons of Spanish origin.....	10,795	2,366	21.9
Mexican.....	6,455	1,516	23.5
Puerto Rican.....	1,548	528	34.1
Cuban.....	689	52	7.5
Central or South American.....	705	95	13.5
Other Spanish.....	1,398	175	12.5
Persons not of Spanish origin[2].....	196,826	20,607	10.5

[1]Excludes unrelated individuals under 14 years of age.
[2]Includes persons who did not know or did not report on origin.